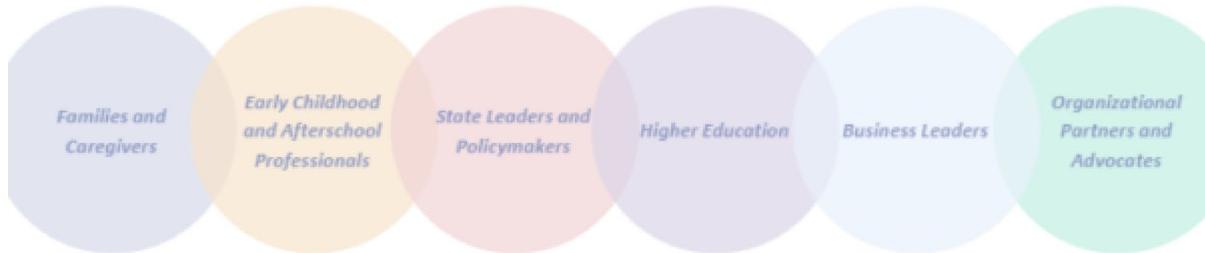




Childhood Connections

May 3, 2022

Continuing Engagement with Stakeholders



In this month's edition, we highlighted several activities that are engaging stakeholders in our work. In 2021, we held numerous events as we transitioned to the new office, but that didn't stop when the office launched. As we begin new projects or revise existing policies, we continue to use the [recommendations](#) for stakeholder engagement that were compiled last year.

Since the beginning of 2022, we have facilitated at least 25 stakeholder events with program-level teams; from reviewing parent education procedures to identifying barriers and solutions for licensed child care to discussing quality professional development. Stakeholder engagement is a part of what we do.

It's not going to be perfect, there will be times when we have to respond to something quickly or we forget to include someone or we may not agree on the solution, but the important part is we are listening to different perspectives, we are learning from one another, and finding compromises. This is building and strengthening our relationships, and that's what really creates success; when we can work together to help all children and families.

All of these activities are part of the ongoing mission in the Office of Childhood (OOC) to improve our outreach and communications with you!

Sincerely,
Pam Thomas
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

NEW! Community Leader Stakeholder Survey Results

Statewide community leaders are working with local stakeholders to improve the coordination of early care and education programs. In March, the OOC distributed a survey to 747 stakeholders working with community leaders.



Today! State Advisory Council Meeting

As an important stakeholder for childhood

The biggest needs identified by the stakeholders who took the survey were:

- A centralized access point with combined resources
- Access to affordable quality child care for special needs and 0-3 population
- Racial equity in quality early childhood programs
- Awareness of services available for families and how to access resources
- Transportation for families
- Accessibility and affordability
- Coordination of services from one program to another

Read the [summary of survey results](#) and learn more about community leaders on the [Regional Hubs webpage](#).

Child Care Relief Funds — Deadline to Apply

Currently, there are four applications available for child care providers to apply for relief funds. Here is a reminder of the applications and deadlines:

- Start-up a new child care program – closes June 30, 2022.
- Expand an existing child care program to serve more children – closes June 30, 2022.
- Enhance/upgrade an existing child care program – closes June 30, 2022.
- Technical/business assistance – closes September 30, 2022

Check out [Child Care Relief Funds](#) to learn more about these applications.

If you need to check on the status of an application you already submitted, you can email ChildCareRelief@dese.mo.gov.

Safe Cribs for Missouri

The [Safe Cribs for Missouri program](#) works to reduce the risk of sleep-related infant death by providing portable cribs and safe sleep education to low income families. Currently, 64 counties participate and four additional counties are in the process of becoming contractors to provide these services. If an agency is interested in participating in

programs in Missouri, we wanted to inform you the first meeting of the Early Childhood State Advisory Council (ECSAC) will be May 3, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. You can review the meeting details, including the agenda and a link to listen live, on the [ECSAC webpage](#). This meeting will not be recorded. Read more about the rationale for this council in the [Executive Order 22-01](#).

MOPATA Annual Retreat in June

The Missouri Parents as Teachers Association (MOPATA) is hosting its Annual Retreat on June 13-15, 2022. The virtual retreat is available for all parent educators and professionals. It is provided for free for existing MOPATA members and \$30 for non-members. For more information about the retreat or for other professional development opportunities, review the [MOPATA website](#). If you are unable to attend the retreat, MOPATA hosts Monthly Collaborative Calls to provide conversations on a variety of topics relating to program implementation for supervisors, administrators, and lead parent educators.

Field Trip and Transportation Resource for Child Care

the Safe Cribs for Missouri program, please contact Shanna Heard at DESE.SafeSleep@dese.mo.gov.

REMINDER! Parents can Access Child Care Facilities

Licensed providers — Did you know that parents must have access to your child care facility?

Group Home and Center licensing rule 5 CSR 25-500.132 (13) states: “Parents shall have access to the facility at any time during child care hours.” **Family Home licensing rule 5 CSR 25-400.135 (11)** states: “Parents shall have access to the home at any time during child care hours.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many child care facilities limited the number of parents or visitors in the building as a way of mitigating the spread of the virus or germs. However, these facilities need to ensure parents can access the facility during child care hours. If you have questions about this requirement, contact your licensing facility specialist or email us at ChildCare@dese.mo.gov

Missouri Parents as Teachers Childhood Outcomes

For the Missouri Parents as Teachers (MO PAT) Research Project, the OOC contracted with the University of Missouri’s Institute of Public Policy to examine the effects of MO PAT participation on child outcomes. The results of this study are available in the [Effects of Missouri Parents as Teachers Participation on Child Outcomes report](#) and a brief summary is available in the [Executive Summary](#). PAT program staff can use this information during their PAT Community Advisory Committees and local school board meetings to highlight the benefits of providing PAT services to families and children.

REMINDER! Child Care Provider Fingerprinting Process

The background screening unit will only accept the [Comprehensive Background Check Notification](#) form supplied by OOC for child care providers and staff members who require fingerprinting. Visit the [Child Care Background Check Process webpage](#) to review the steps for completing a comprehensive criminal background check,

Is your child care program planning an upcoming field trip? Check out this resource: [Preparing for Field Trips and Transporting Children](#). The one-page guide offers practical tips to help you prepare for field trips and protect children during your planned outing.

NEW! Hearing and Vision Loss Resource

The Early Intervention section is excited to share a new resource document outlining state-funded hearing and [vision services](#) available to children with hearing and/or vision loss. This resource was created in partnership with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Missouri School for the Deaf, and the Missouri School for the Blind. Professionals working with children with hearing or vision loss can use this document to identify programs and services that may be able to assist families.

Missouri Parents as Teachers (MO PAT) Administrative Memo for School Leaders

A [MO PAT Administrative Memo](#) was recently disseminated to all school district administrators to provide a brief overview of changes to the MO PAT

essential forms, and answers to frequently asked questions.

Fingerprint Payments for Child Care Staff

The OOC is paying for the cost of an individual's fingerprinting for the required criminal background check for child care staff members. Staff members must use the Missouri Automated Criminal History Site (MACHS) registration code **8897**. At this time, the OOC will pay for fingerprinting until December 31, 2022.

This funding **does not apply** to First Steps Providers.

For additional information about this process, review the [Detailed Background Check Instructions](#). Please note that the OOC will not issue reimbursement if there is an issue with the authorization code at the time of fingerprinting and/or if an individual chooses to pay for the cost of fingerprinting.

for fiscal year 2023. Districts have the option to be curriculum partners or affiliates. The deadline for submitting an Affiliate plan to the Parents as Teachers National Center (PATNC) is May 31, 2022.

Spotlight on Success

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs that are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.

This month's spotlight is on the School of the Osage's Early Childhood Center and the Osage Family Partnership (OFP) group. The School of the Osage Preschool program allows children to be actively involved in a variety of activities in the language, motor, cognitive and social emotional domains which become the foundation for children's future academic success. In order to achieve this goal, the Early Childhood Center staff invite parents to be partners in this endeavor.

The Early Childhood OFP is one of five different groups that parents can join at the School of the Osage. These groups focus on connecting with partners to share information and resources. The OFP collaborates with partners to welcome all families, communicate effectively, support student success, speak up for every child, and work together with the local community.

Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update

The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early



childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A [recording](#) and the [PowerPoint slides](#) from the most recent webinar are available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information.

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

PDG B-5 Monthly Webinar

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on May 26, 2022, from noon to 12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser. Do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate.

Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.

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